

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for playing back a storage medium storing still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and still picture group management information for managing said still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group, where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one, wherein said still picture group management information is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said still picture group management information has a data area for storing time data which specifies time information including only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said method comprising:

receiving an entry of a predetermined time of interest regarding still pictures recorded by the picture-taking device;

comparing said predetermined time with said first and last recording times stored in said still picture group management information; and

selectively playing back the still picture data belonging to said still picture group satisfying a condition in which said predetermined time is equal to or later than said first recording time and equal to or earlier than said last recording time.

2. - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable code thereon executable by an apparatus, for controlling storing of still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and still picture group management information for managing said still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group, where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one, wherein said still picture group management information is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said still picture group management information has a data area for storing time data which specifies time information including only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, wherein when an apparatus for playing back said storage medium receives a predetermined time of interest regarding still pictures recorded by the picture-taking device, said code enables said apparatus to compare

said predetermined time with said first and last recording times stored in said still picture group management information, and selectively play back the still picture data belonging to said still picture group satisfying a condition in which said predetermined time is equal to or later than said first recording time and equal to or earlier than said last recording time.

5. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing thereon a procedure for controlling a computer to record still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and still picture group management information for, managing N still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group onto a storage medium, where said N is an integer number equal to or greater than one, wherein said still picture group management information is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and wherein said procedure comprises the step of recording, within a data area of the still picture group management information for storing time data, time information including only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, and enabling the computer to accept entry of a predetermined time of interest regarding still pictures recorded by the picture-taking

device, and to selectively play back the still picture data belonging to said still picture group satisfying a condition in which said predetermined time is equal to or later than said first recording time and equal to or earlier than said last recording time stored in said still picture group management information.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said still picture data is non-movie still picture data, and wherein said still picture group management information is non-movie still picture group management information.

7. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 4, wherein said still picture data is non-movie still picture data, and wherein said still picture group management information is non-movie still picture group management information.

8. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 5, wherein said still picture data is non-movie still picture data, and wherein said still picture group management information is non-movie still picture group management information.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 1,~~ A method for playing back a storage medium storing still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and still picture group management information for managing said still

picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group, where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one, wherein said still picture group management information is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said still picture group management information has a data area for storing time data which specifies time information including only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said method comprising:

receiving an entry of a predetermined time of interest regarding still pictures recorded by the picture-taking device;

comparing said predetermined time with said first and last recording times stored in said still picture group management information;

selectively playing back the still picture data belonging to said still picture group satisfying a condition in which said predetermined time is equal to or later than said first recording time and equal to or earlier than said last recording time; and

wherein said picture group management information excludes recording times of still pictures of said still picture group other than said first recording time of said earliest-recorded still picture and said last recording time of said latest-recorded still picture.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and wherein any playing back of said still picture group management information and said still picture data from the optical disk is effected using an optical reading device.

11. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 4, wherein said picture group management information excludes recording times of still pictures of said still picture group other than said first recording time of said earliest-recorded still picture and said last recording time of said latest-recorded still picture.

12. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 4, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and wherein any playing back of said still picture group management information and said still picture data from the optical disk is effected using an optical reading device.

13. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 5, wherein said picture group management information excludes recording times of still pictures of said still picture group other than said first recording time of said earliest-recorded still picture and said last recording time of said latest-recorded still picture.

14. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 5, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and wherein any playing back of said still picture group management information and said still picture data from the optical disk is effected using an optical reading device.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 1,~~ A method for playing back a storage medium storing still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and still picture group management information for managing said still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group, where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one, wherein said still picture group management information is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said still picture group management information has a data area for storing time data which specifies time information including only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-
photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said method comprising:

receiving an entry of a predetermined time of interest regarding still pictures recorded by the picture-taking device;

comparing said predetermined time with said first and last recording times stored in said still picture group management information;

selectively playing back the still picture data belonging to said still picture group satisfying a condition in which said predetermined time is equal to or later than said first recording time and equal to or earlier than said last recording time; and

wherein the data area is more specifically first and last recording time data areas, used to store the first recording time and the last recording time, respectively.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The method~~ The storage medium as claimed in claim 4, wherein the data area is more specifically first and last recording time data areas, used to store the first recording time and the last recording time, respectively.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The method~~ The storage medium as claimed in claim 5, wherein the data area is more specifically first and last recording time data areas, used to store the first recording time and the last recording time, respectively.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for playing back a storage medium storing still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and still picture group management information for managing said still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group, where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one, wherein said still picture group management information is provided separately

from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said still picture group management information includes a recording time data which specify recording times, all of the recording times still picture group management information consist of only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a last-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said method comprising:

receiving an entry of a predetermined time of interest regarding still pictures recorded by the picture-taking device;

comparing said predetermined time with said first and last recording times stored in said still picture group management information; and

selectively playing back the still picture data belonging to said still picture group satisfying a condition in which said predetermined time is equal to or later than said first recording time and equal to or earlier than said last recording time.

19. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer readable storage medium having computer readable code thereon executable by an apparatus, for controlling storing of still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and still picture group management information for managing said still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group, where N is an integer number equal to or larger than

one, wherein said still picture group management information is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said still picture group management information has a recording time data which specify recording times, all of the recording times in said still picture group management information consist of only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a last-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, wherein when an apparatus for playing back said storage medium receives a predetermined time of interest regarding still pictures recorded by the picture-taking device, said code enables said apparatus to compare said predetermined time with said first and last recording times stored in said still picture group management information, and selectively play back the still picture data belonging to said still picture group satisfying a condition in which said predetermined time is equal to or later than said first recording time and equal to or earlier than said last recording time.

20. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer readable storage medium storing thereon a procedure for controlling a computer to record still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and still picture group management information for, managing N still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture

group onto a storage medium, where N is an integer number equal to or greater than one, wherein said still picture group management information is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and wherein said procedure comprises the step of recording, within a recording time data which specify recording times, time information where all of the recording times in said still picture group management information consist of only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a last-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, and enabling the computer to accept entry of a predetermined time of interest regarding still picture recorded by the picture-taking device, and to selectively play back the still picture data belonging to said still picture group satisfying a condition in which said predetermined time is equal to or later than said first recording time and equal to or earlier than said last recording time.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said still picture data is non-movie still picture data, and wherein said still picture group management information is non-movie still picture group management information.

22. (Previously Presented) The storage medium, as claimed in claim 19, wherein said still picture data is non-movie still picture data, and wherein said still picture group management information is non-movie still picture group management information.

23. (Previously Presented) The storage medium, as claimed in claim 20, wherein said still picture data is non-movie still picture data, and wherein said still picture group management information is non-movie still picture group management information.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and wherein any playing back of said still picture group management information and said still picture data from the optical disk is effected using an optical reading device.

25. (Previously Presented) The storage medium, as claimed in claim 19, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and wherein any playing back of said still picture group management information and said still picture data from the optical disk is effected using an optical reading device.

26. (Previously Presented) The storage medium, as claimed in claim 20, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and wherein any playing back of said still picture

group management information and said still picture data from the optical disk is effected using an optical reading device.